

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05855 01 OF 02 231759Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 AGR-05 COME-00 SP-02

AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06

NEA-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DHA-02 DIWY-01 ( ISO ) W

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P 231644Z JUL 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4861

USEC BRUSSELS 4861

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5855

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN

SUBJECT: 59TH ECOSOC: ITEM NO. 17, FOOD PROBLEMS

ROME FOR FODAG

REF: GENEVA 5796

BEGIN SUMMARY: PPCC DEBATE ON SUBJECT ITEM CONCLUDED JULY 22  
WITH ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS OF HELPFUL RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING  
INTER ALIA THAT GA PROVIDE WFC SECRETARIAT WILL "ALL NECESSARY  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES REQUIRED" TO ENABLE  
SECRETARIAT TO DO ITS JOB EFFECTIVELY. IN ADDITION TO GUINEA  
(SEE REFTEL) TWENTY DELS AS WELL AS FAO, UNICEF, AND WHO REPS  
PARTICIPATED IN DEBATE. THERE WERE NO FIREWORKS. AT CONCLUSION  
OF DEBATE, WFC EXDIR HANNAH ANNOUNCED THAT SECOND WFC SESSION  
HAS NOW BEEN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF MARCH 8-12 IN  
GENEVA. HANNAH LEFT GENEVA FOR NEW YORK MID-DAY JULY 23, HIGHLY  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05855 01 OF 02 231759Z

SATISFIED WITH DEBATE AND ITS OUTCOME. END SUMMARY.

1. INTERVENTIONS IN DEBATE WERE MADE BY FOLLOWING DELEGATIONS:  
NETHERLANDS, DENMARK, CHINA, GUINEA, FRG, ETHIOPIA, CANADA  
INDONESIA, VENEZUELA, IRAN, UK, BELGIUM, USSR, COLOMBIA,  
YUGOSLAVIA, AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA, NORWAY, EGYPT, JAMAICA,  
U.S. ALL DELS WITH EXCEPTION ONLY OF COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA,  
CHINA AND USSR MADE POINT OF COMPLIMENTING HANNAH PERSONALLY  
FOR HIS PRESENTATION OF WFC REPORT. THERE WER NO CRITIC-  
ISMS OF HANNAH PERSONALLY OR OF HIS ROLE OR POSITION AS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WFC.

WHILE SOME DELS ADDRESSED BROADER ASPECTS OF FOOD  
PROBLEM, SAYING NOTHING NEW, DEBATE ESSENTIALLY CENTERED  
ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL'S FIRST SESSION AND ON COUNCIL'S  
FUTURE ROLE.

3. WEO'S (INCLUDING U.S..) TOOK LINE THAT WHILE WFC SESSION  
WAS DISAPPOINTING IT WAS NOT FAILURE AND THAT WFC STILL HAD  
IMPORTANT PART TO PLAY IN FUTURE IN RESOLUTION OF WORLD  
FOOD PROBLEMS. UK WENT SO FAR AS TO PRONOUNCE FIRST SESSION  
AS "SUCCESS" SINCE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT  
WFC TO PRODUCE SOLUTIONS TO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS, WHEREAS  
COUNCIL HAD TAKEN "SOLID FIRST STEP" TOWARD ACHIEVING LONGER-  
TERM SOLUTIONS. UK VIEW WAS THAT WFC HAD MADE "SIGNIFICANT  
PROGRESS" BY REVIEWING EXISTING SITUATION, RECOMMENDING  
ACTIONS FOR FUTURE AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES TO PRESIDENT AND  
SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR FUTURE WORK. UK DEL SAID PRESS OVER-  
PLAYED CRITICISM OF FIRST SESSION AND HE WAS GLAD MISUNDER-  
STANDINGS ABOUT SESSION HAD NOT BEEN REMOVED.

4 DENMARK MADE STRONG STATEMENT THAT WFC MUST NOT BE  
DOWNGRADED AND SHOULD BE KEPT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. DANISH  
AMBASSADOR (KASTOFT) SAID GOVERNMENTS SHOULD "ENTRUST" WFC  
WITH POLITICAL POWER SO THAT COUNCIL COULD BE TRULY EF-  
FECTIVE. WEO'S GENERALLY COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PROGRESS  
MADE IN IFAD WG BUT FRG REITERATED ITS WELL KNOWN INTENTION  
NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO IFAD. NORWAY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GON  
OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROLIFERATION OF NEW FUNDS, IT SUP-  
PORTS IFAD AS AN EXCEPTION, ON ASSUMPTION FUND WILL TRY TO  
MEET NEEDS POOREST COUNTRIES FIRST. OTHER WEO'S ALSO EM-  
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 05855 01 OF 02 231759Z

PHASIZED NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO POOREST COUNTRIES. NEARLY  
ALL DELEGATIONS STRESSED PARAMOUNTCY OF NEED TO INCREASE  
FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDC'S.

5. LDC STATEMENTS ON COUNCIL'S FIRST SESSION WERE GENERALLY  
IN PESSIMISTIC VEIN BUT THEME WAS ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT  
RATHER THAN CONDEMNATION. NO SPEAKER CALLED FIRST SESSION  
"A FAILURE" BUT COLOMBIA CAME CLOSE, STATING THAT ONE HAD

THE IMPRESSION FROM WFC MEETING THAT "SOMETHING WAS WRONG", AND THAT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT ULTIMATELY WAS GOVERNMENT ACTIONS NOT WHAT IS DONE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA OR BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. IN MOST MILITANT AS WELL AS PROBABLY MOST NEGATIVE OF LDC STATEMENTS, COLOMBIAN DEL ALSO INSISTED THAT ADOPTION OF NIEO PRINCIPLES OFFERS ONLY REAL HOPE FOR RESOLUTION OF FOOD PROBLEMS. SHE ALSO MADE POITED COMMENT ON ISSUE OF GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE IN SECRETARIAT STATING THAT LATIN AMERICANS "SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED". GUINEA HAD SAID EARLIER THAT COMPOSITION OF SECRETARIAT SHOULD REFLECT ALL "IDEOLOGIES".

6. OTHER LA SPEAKERS, PARTICULARLY VENEZUELA AND ARGENTINA STRESSED NEED FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION AS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN DEALING WITH FOOD PROBLEM. VENEZUELA REITERATED ITS SUPPORT FOR IFAD AND URGED QUICK ACTION ON PEREZ PROPOSAL TO CREATE REGIONAL FERTILIZER CAPACITY IN THIRD WORLD, NOTING THAT EXPERTS HAD ALREADY STARTED TO WORK ACTIVELY ON PROPOSAL IN LATIN AMERICAN CONTEXT. JAMAICA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH DEGREE OF APPARENT INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR IFAD AND URGED WFC TO COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH UN AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY FAO. HE SAID JAMAICA RESERVING ITS JUDGEMENT ON WHETHER OR NOT PROBLEMS AT FIRST SESSION HAVE INDEED BEEN OVERCOME. INDONESIA COMMENT ON DIFFICULTIES AT FIRST SESSION WAS THAT PROBLEMS WERE DUE IN GOOD PART TO FACT WFC CONVENED RIGHT ON HEELS OF FAO COUNCIL SESSION AND URGED THAT THIS NOT BE REPEATEDD.

7. USSR AND CHINA REHASHED TIRED POLITICAL POSITIONS, CONTRIBUTING NOTHING TO DEBATE. ANTI-SOVIET CHINESE POLEMICS REACHED NEW HEIGHT IN VITRIOL IN STATEMENT THAT "ONE SUPERPOWER'S HARPING ON DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT AT WFC MADE ONE FEEL LIKE VOMITING".

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PAGE 04 GENEVA 05855 01 OF 02 231759Z

6. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MADE VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RECALLING THAT IT IS SUCCESSFUL CULMINATION OF EFFORT LAUNCHED 28 YEARS AGO. HE SAID COUNCIL HAD BEEN GIVEN IMPORTANT TASKS AND DESERVES SUPPORT. HE URGED THAT WFC PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNDERTAKE ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS SEEKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO IFAD AND MORE FOOD AID TO MEET TARGET; CITING BIBLICAL STORY OF "SEVEN FAT YEARS AND SEVEN LEAN YEARS", IN DISCUSSING FOOD SECURITY NEEDS HE SAID TIME HAD COME FOR ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HEED DIVINE COUNSEL WHICH EGYPTIAN PHARAOH WAS FIRST TO FOLLOW.

9. FAO DEL SAID IT WOULD BE TRAGEDY IF DIFFICULTIES AT FIRST SESSION SHOULD CAUSE COUNTRIES TO REDUCE THEIR SUP-

PORT OF WFC. WHILE EXPRESSING HOPE THAT WFC WOULD NOT BE  
"ANOTHER BLIND ALLEY" HE MANAGED TO SOUND NEITHER CHEERFUL  
NOR OPTIMISTIC OVER WFC'S PROSPECTS. HE TOOK ISSUE MILDLY  
WITH HANNAH'S OPENING REMARK THAT WFC HAD TAKEN FIRST ALL-  
IMPORTANT STEP ON "JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES" OBSERVING  
THAT SINCE FAO HAD BEEN ON ROAD FOR 30 YEARS WFC IS NOT  
FIRST STEP BUT ONLY "MILESTONE".

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05855 02 OF 02 231824Z

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P 231644Z JUL 75

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 5855

10. DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ITEM CONTAINING FIVE OP PARAS  
WAS INTRODUCED BY ETHIOPIA ON BEHALF OF OTHER COSPONSORS  
(ARGENTINA, INDONESIA, PAKISTAN AND VENEZUELA, LATER  
JOINED BY NETHERLANDS AND MALI). ORIGINAL OP PARAS TOOK  
NOT OF WFC REPORT, APPEALED FOR FOOD AID CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO REACH 10 MILLION TON TARGET, URGED DONORS TO ACCEPT  
CONCEPT OF FORWARD PLANNING OF FOOD AID "TO FULLEST POS-  
SIBLE EXTENT., URGED EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF IFAD, AND  
RECOMMENDED THAT IFAD WG SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF SPECIAL  
PROBLEMS OF LDC'S PARTICULARLY THE LEAST DEVELOPED, IN

FRAMING CRITERIA FOR UTILIZATION OF FUND. IN COURSE OF  
INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS COSPONSORS AGREED TO ACCEPT AD-  
DITIONAL OP PARA URGING DONORS TO MEET MSA NEEDS FOR  
1975/76 PERIOD AND FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL OP PARA PROPOSED  
BY U.S.: "RECOMMENDS FURTHER, BEARING IN MIND THE NEED  
FOR A SMALL SECRETARIAT OF HIGH PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE  
WITH AN EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE, THAT THE GA PROVIDE  
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05855 02 OF 02 231824Z

ALL NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES RE-  
QUIRED TO ENABLE THE WFC SECRETARIAT TO DISCHARGE EFFEC-  
TIVELY THE DUTIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO IT".

11. DRAFT RES WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT DEBATE. FRG MADE STATE-  
MENT OF RESERVATION ON IFAD AND ON CONCEPT OF "FORWARD  
PLANNING". USSR ASKED THAT RECORD FULLY REFLECT SOVIET  
INTERVENTION IN DEBATE. SUBSEQUENT TO ADOPTION OF RES  
USDEL HEARD CORRIDOR TALK THAT DUTCH AND SOME MEMBERS OF  
GROUP OF 15 WERE UNHAPPY WITH AMENDMENT CITED PARA 10  
ABOVE. WE PLAN TO RESIST VIGOROUSLY ANY ATTEMPT TO RE-  
OPEN ISSUE IN PLENARY.

12. HANNAH'S OPENING STATEMENT AND USDEL'S STATEMENT  
BEING POUCHED. DALE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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